

we can spend all the time we want to blaming people here, but the question is what are we going to do.

The Republicans say they care about terrorism. This here is a report that gives us concrete things to do; and the leadership of the Republican Party says, well, put this up on the shelf, this 9/11 report, just put it up there, and let us go down and talk about Sandy Berger.

Did anything get lost? Did the commission say they could do not their work? Did the Justice Department come to it with any charges against Mr. Berger? No.

Now, we do not want to talk about the White House and Vivian Plame, or whatever her name was, that they outed or the majority leader who seems to be in some difficulty in Texas. We do not want to talk about that stuff. Let us talk about what needs to be done with the terrorism report.

#### THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WASTES A LOT OF MONEY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, almost every Member of this Congress wants us to have a strong military, and we all want to support our troops. Yet almost everyone realizes, too, that the Defense Department unfortunately wastes a lot of money.

It seems to me that we have an obligation to the taxpayers to speak out against this waste, or it will get even worse.

Now national news organizations and publications have reported that the Defense Department has paid for 556 breast enlargements and 1,592 liposuctions for soldiers and dependents from 2000 through the first 3 months of 2004. These are very expensive operations.

I realize the Federal bureaucrats can rationalize or justify almost any expense, especially since it is not coming out of their pockets, but soldiers have an obligation to stay in shape and meet physical fitness requirements and should not need liposuction for severe obesity.

Certainly, it does not make any sense to say that breast enlargements will make women better soldiers.

#### THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. MATHESON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the current administration in January of 2001, the national debt has increased by \$1,639,772,884,702.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, yesterday the Nation's total outstanding, privately held debt was \$4,228,551,437,783.

Foreign holdings of U.S. privately held debt now total \$1.75 trillion. This

is an increase of \$740 billion since January of 2001, and it is 41 percent of all privately held U.S. debt.

For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, the fiscal health of our country deserves far better care and attention from the White House and from this Congress.

#### WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, before the ink was even dry on the 9/11 report, before we even had a chance to read it, some were saying we should delay any action on the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

I have one simple question: What are we waiting for? Did we miss the point of 9/11? Remember, we cannot spell 9/11 without 9-1-1 and 9-1-1 means urgent, emergency, act now, life or death. It does not mean let us table this discussion until after the election.

The bipartisan commission has called for the creation of a national terrorist center with a new Cabinet-level intelligence chief. They call for the creation of a Joint House and Senate Committee on Intelligence with budget power. I say, great, let us do it, let us act now. What are we waiting for? What part of 9/11 does the leadership of this House not understand?

#### 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today the bipartisan 9/11 Commission gave their report to Members of Congress, and I think it was a solid report.

It pointed out we just did not have the imagination to perceive our enemies hating us so much that they would use airplanes as missiles and attack us in the somewhat cowardly, surprised manner that they did. We did not have the capabilities in our intelligence community because we looked at it through Cold War visions. We should have been looking ahead. Finally, we did have not the right management tools. The CIA, the FBI, and other agencies were not talking to each other.

Therefore, one of their recommendations was to put together a national security czar, one person who would be above the CIA and the FBI to kind of control the 15 different intelligence agencies. I think it is an interesting proposal, one that I think most Members of Congress are going to be receptive to.

They also said that we need to put together a committee, maybe a select joint committee between House and Senate, for more oversight, perhaps giving it the authority to authorize and appropriate. Oversight, Members of Congress are going to be very inter-

ested in this, and I am looking forward to a good bipartisan effort to address the issues raised by the 9/11 Commission.

#### BORROWING MONEY

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the American people understand what is happening with our fiscal House, our economic well-being.

I wonder if the American people know, Mr. Speaker, that the President of the United States is borrowing money to add to the largest annual deficit in the history of the United States, borrowing money to give tax cuts, tax cuts that will go disproportionately to households making over \$300,000 a year.

As the Wall Street Journal said just the other day, a very conservative newspaper, all of these prior trillion dollars of tax cuts have benefited primarily the very rich in our society, not the middle class, not the working class and not the poor; and they give reasons why that is so.

Instead of borrowing money, adding to the deficit for more tax cuts for the rich, who have done very well, thank you very much, why do we not invest that money in our Nation's infrastructure, roads, bridges, sewers, hospitals, school buildings, so that not only do we provide good-paying jobs but at the end of it we have something to show for it and we do not force our local property taxpayers to pick up the tab when the Federal Government should be paying for it, instead of giving it to the very rich who have done extraordinarily well. God bless them, but they do not need the money. America and our taxpayers need the money.

#### MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on a day of good news, when we have a report from the 9/11 Commission that has been thorough, bipartisan, with some solid, hard-hitting suggestions to make our country safer, when later this morning I am confident the House is going to take a vote condemning what is going on in Sudan and calling it what it is, genocide, moving us in the right direction. Sadly the House Republican leadership has managed to take the terrible idea of enshrining discrimination in our Constitution against gay and lesbian citizens and trump it, take it one step further.

We are about to debate a rule that for the first time in our history would pass legislation stripping from the Federal courts the ability to rule on constitutionality of Legislation. They want to do it specifically in a case of discrimination against our gay and lesbian citizens.